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631 Gulf of 'Oman established by the Middle East Anti-Locust Unit in 1943. Besides Trucial sheikhs and their immediate subjects, there are Bedouins, who, however, do not engage in any activity on the seas and are thus outside the provisions of the treaties. In general, the Bedouins recognize the authority of one or another of the Trucial sheikhs, but changes of allegiance are numerous. Bedouins may decide to make wars of their own, or to change sides during wars between Trucial sheikhs, which makes the political position even more complex. In recent years Bedouins have frequently attacked the motor convoys of British nationals traveling in the definite territory of peaceful sheikhs,¹⁰ but under the provisions of the treaties there seems to be no legal remedy to stop this armed aggression, except through successful local wars by the sheikhs.

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177 As a result of the nature of the treaties, the culture of the area, containing both Arab and Iranian elements, has been preserved practically free of any foreign admixture. Dr. A. R. Lindt,¹¹ a Swiss observer writing in 1939, was particularly impressed by this achievement. Slowly, however, twentieth-century influences have begun to appear. In the early 1930's Great Britain, in the course of a quarrel over oil concessions in Iran, relocated its air routes to India over Trucial 'Oman instead of Iran. Rights to land seaplanes at Dibai and landplanes at Sharjah were acquired, and maintenance crews and other personnel were permanently stationed there. To ensure safety during local wars, overnight quarters for passengers, with permanent armed guards, were established in a fortified compound near Sharjah. Landing fees, levied according to the number of passengers, were payable to the sheikhs in whose territory landings took place. These landing fees constituted a large part of the revenues of the sheikh of Sharjah, whose only other income is derived from a tax on pearling, which is hard to collect.¹² During the war, rights to make emergency landings on the island of Yas were also acquired by the British government. Today, larger planes can fly directly from Bahrein to Karachi, and little use is made of the landing rights on the Trucial Coast, so that the sheikhs' revenues must have decreased substantially. The introduction of the motorcar has also had a marked effect on the local economy. Traffic from inland oases and the Gulf of 'Oman to the cities on the shores of the Persian Gulf is important, though no statistical data are available.

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135 The presence of oil had been suspected since the beginning of the century, but the inaccessibility of the region together with its uncertain political status

¹⁰ O'Shea, *op. cit.*, p. 13.

¹¹ Politics in the Persian Gulf, *Journ. Royal Central Asian Soc.*, Vol. 26, 1939, pp. 619-633.

¹² O'Shea, *op. cit.*, pp. 76 and 140.

TRUCIAL 'OMAN AND QATAR

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TABLE II—CONCESSIONS FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES IN THE SOUTHEASTERN PERSIAN GULF REGION

STATE	CONCESSIONAIRE	DATE	TERM	DEVELOPMENT	REMARKS
QATAR	1. For territory of state: Petroleum Development (Qatar) Ltd., subsidiary of Iraq Petroleum Co.	1935	75 years	Production since 1949; reached in March, 1952, 64,000 barrels a day (March, 1951, 46,500; March, 1950, 34,000; March, 1949, nil).	By arbitration, the concession is to include resources under the sea within the three-mile limit.
	2. For subsurface offshore rights beyond the three-mile limit: Superior Oil Co. of San Francisco, Calif., jointly with Central Mining and Investment Corporation of London, England; concession abandoned and transferred to the Royal Dutch Shell Co., 1952.	1949	Not available		Ditto outside three-mile limit.
ABU DHABI	1. For territory of sheikhdom: Petroleum Development (Trucial Coast) Ltd., subsidiary of Iraq Petroleum Co.	1939	75 years	Exploration begun in 1950.	Arbitration award as above, 1.
	2. For subsurface offshore rights: Superior Oil Co. of San Francisco, Calif.; concession abandoned, 1952.	1949	Not available		Arbitration award as above, 2.
OTHER TRUCIAL STATES	Petroleum Development (Trucial Coast) Ltd.	No details available			
'OMAN	Petroleum Development ('Oman and Dhofar) Ltd., subsidiary of Iraq Petroleum Co.	No details available			
SAUDI ARABIA (part adjoining Trucial 'Oman)	Arabian American Oil Co.	1933	66 years	Exploration begun.	
ADEN PROTECTORATE	Petroleum Concessions Ltd., subsidiary of Iraq Petroleum Co.	No details available			

T seems to have discouraged plans for development. However, in 1935 the 135 sheikh of Qatar signed a concession agreement, and in 1939 the sheikhs of the 648 Trucial Coast followed (Table II). All the concessions were assigned to 471 subsidiaries of the Iraq Petroleum Company in which British, American, Dutch, French, and private interests participate. Until now commercial 135 production of oil has taken place only in Qatar; development in Trucial 471 'Oman is still in the early exploratory stage. The oil at Qatar is obtained at 648 about 6000 feet from a Jurassic limestone rock reservoir in a long, narrow 315 anticline. It is believed that either these strata or the thick, highly productive Cretaceous sandstone series of Kuwait extend to Trucial 'Oman.

THE RUB-AL-KHALI

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started to blow, and first 'dust devils', then a great cloud of black sand, began to sweep all round us. The sandwiches were ruined, except those in one carton I had not opened, and our eyes smarted for several minutes. The gale quickly died down and we decided to leave at once; it was nearly midday and we wished to reach Djaidh before the hour of prayer. 487 133

As we drew close to Djaidh, the plantations of which we could just see through the haze, the ground became extremely rocky, the track leading over a high steppe, which we estimated to be six hundred feet above sea level; this steppe was strewn with large basalt boulders, some as large as a football, which made steering very difficult. The stones were curiously formed and highly polished, some being striped with white selenite. Williamson [135] who collected several specimens, told us that there is a certain amount of gold and copper in the mountains here. They are practically unexplored, although a geological survey was made of the Ruus-al-Jibal range recently, the results being published in the Quarterly Journal of the Royal Geological Society. In the passes of these hills are the strongholds of the wild and truculent Shi'hou tribe, some of whom I encountered on my last trip to Ras-al-Khaimah.

The steppe gradually sloped towards a rocky *batah*, a narrow and almost treeless valley, which was in reality a dried-up river bed; the force of the water which flung the boulders down the hillsides must have been tremendous, probably the result of a burst watershed. Williamson believes it may have occurred several thousand years ago, although in the rain season torrents of water annually wash down from the hills and a wide river flows through a mountain pass from Muraq-quibat to Kalba, where it reaches the sea. After five miles the bed narrowed into a small *wadhi*, which in turn gave way to luxuriant, park-like country, thickly wooded with tall acacias, amongst which we spotted herds of wild black donkeys.

A mile ahead was the date plantation. It was the hour of prayer, so we stopped the car and wandered through the dark, jungle-like paths while Jasim, Sheikh Hamid and the drivers said their devotions. The plantation is cross-sectioned by two wide main paths, with high enclosures of palm-leaf fencing on either side; let into this fence at intervals are little wicket gates, which lead to grass paths of a man's width running between the trees. A 'cover' crop of clover, grass and shrub is cultivated at the roots of the trees, as this 245

244 and various vegetables are cultivated in the inland valleys. Cows, goats and other livestock are raised in the towns and the villages, but camels, goats and sheep are the mainstay of the Bedouin.

316 Ocher is mined on the offshore island of
471 Bu Musa, but no other mineral deposits of
135 commercial value are known to exist. The Petroleum Development (Trucial Coast) Ltd., a subsidiary of the Iraq Petroleum Company, holds concessions for the exploitation of the oil reserves of Trucial Oman, and is conducting exploratory operations in the area. The discovery of oil would undoubtedly have a revolutionary effect upon the economy and the standards of living of the people.

361 A large majority of the inhabitants dwell in the headquarters towns of the different sheikhdoms or in adjacent fishing or agricultural villages. Most of the towns are compact, with narrow, crooked streets, darkened by projecting balconies and matting canopies put up for protection from the sun. Dibai, the largest, is a walled town with an estimated population of over 20,000. Sharja, the second in size, is a settlement of 3,000 to 15,000 which is unwalled but surrounded by a fringe of palm thatch, or *barasti*, huts.

344 The homes of the wealthy merchants are of
361 two stories with wide balconies and spacious inner courts, but those of the poor are usually simple one- or two-room huts of mud brick or palm thatch. The Bedouin live in the traditional black goat's hair tents of the nomadic tribes. They move about with their herds, following fresh pastures in the winter and congregating around desert wells in the summer. A few join the fishing or the pearling fleets during the summer season, while their families camp in the vicinity of the towns.

444 The nutritional habits of the people vary
571 with the racial, the social and the economic backgrounds of the diverse communities. Poverty and lack of adequate transportation facilities restrict the foodstuffs available to a large percentage of the population.

262 Dates, breads prepared from wheat or mil-